

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
August 10, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus
Excused: Duffy, Lindsey, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2009 meeting. Ms. Koehn requested a clarification regarding her statement concerning the Town's water standards for the community water system at Ponde Place be added to the minutes. She also requested additional information detailing who sets the standards for community water systems be provided to Council members. Mr. Haddad noted that in the information provided by Ms. Koehn regarding the Northeast Regional Management Area Water Supply Forum she attended, the position of two of the speakers were confused. The Town Manager will correct the notes and forward the information for inclusion in the record copy of the minutes.

The minutes as amended were approved.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to move Item 3, Presentation: MetroHartford Alliance, as the next item of business after the opportunity for public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, implored the Council to speed up the process to install cameras in the Council Chambers. Mr. Hossack also questioned why the Fire Department contract is taking so long to be signed.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked for information on the recently settled lawsuit between Mansfield and the Windham Water Pollution Control Authority. Ms. Wassmundt requested an accounting of the projected and actual savings as a result of changes made to the energy plan of the Town.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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Attached

In response to a citizen question, Mr. Hart stated the labor contract with the Fire Department is actively being negotiated.

Ms. Koehn will send questions to the Town Manager regarding the Northeast Regional Management Area Water Supply Forum and how the information presented there might relate to Pond Place's water supply system.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported Town and University staff have already met with a number of apartment owners and managers to discuss existing security measures. The group also plans to meet with landowners and renters from some single-family homes to discuss existing and potential problems. He noted that some infractions have already been ticketed in single-family rentals.

Mayor Paterson reported that she and co-chair of the Community Campus Partnership, Jim Hintz, have been working to revamp the time of the meetings and are planning to schedule presentations dealing with different aspects of community/campus life.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reported that WINCOG has agreed to schedule the next meeting to continue the discussion of the role of a Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUUC) in the Northeast Region of Connecticut. He noted that staff would continue to meet and discuss the issue with UConn through the Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee. Ms. Koehn asked to attend these meetings.

Mr. Nesbitt reported the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee will meet on August 27th and that his committee has ascertained there is definitely interest in public water beyond the Four Corners Area. Mr. Haddad asked if the mission of the Committee includes water and areas beyond Four Corners. The Town Clerk will provide a copy of the resolution approving the establishment of the Committee. Members discussed the role of the Downtown Partnership, which was originally charged with developing plans for 3 areas of Town including the Four Corners. Mr. Nesbitt noted that a member of the Partnership Board serves on the Committee,

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thereby keeping the Partnership advised of the Committee's activities.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation: MetroHartford Alliance

Town Manager Matt Hart welcomed MetroHartford Alliance members John Shemo and Becky Nolan to the meeting. Mr. Shemo described the Alliance as a private nonprofit organization that serves as a leader in the economic development of the greater Hartford area and serves as Hartford's Chamber of Commerce. He also reviewed the 2009 priorities of the Alliance. (Strategic Goals attached) Mansfield was a municipal investor in the Alliance until 2007.

Becky Nolan described some of the advertising work of the Alliance and emphasized that they have cultivated relationships with site selectors across the world. She outlined some of the benefits municipalities receive as members of the Alliance.

Members questioned how the Alliance works with the Councils of Government, what percentage of their budget is supplied by municipal investors (4%), what percentage is paid by corporate interest. and, consequently, the amount of influence municipal investors have on the policies of the Alliance. Mr. Shemo stated that, if the Town rejoined, it would be at the rate of .20 per capita and that the Town could join its public policy Council. He also stated that the Alliance works with all the Councils of Government and that because Mansfield is part of the Hartford labor market it would be a good fit.

4. Mansfield's Plan for Young Children

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective August 10, 2009 to endorse Mansfield's Plan for Young Children as an element of Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision, under the vision point "Early Care and Education"

Kevin Grunwald, Director of Human Services, provided an overview of the background and process that led to the comprehensive plan for children from birth to eight years old. Mansfield was one of 23 communities who received a grant from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and the State Department of Education to create a plan for this population using Result Based Accountability. Mr. Grunwald acknowledged the outstanding work of Sandy Baxter and the group of volunteers who formulated the plan. He noted that

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there is an additional opportunity for funding for the implementation of the plan from the Graustein Fund. A matching Town commitment would be required. Ms. Koehn suggested the Town support of the Discovery Depot might be considered a contribution.

The motion to endorse the plan passed unanimously with the understanding that the endorsement does not approve any additional financial support.

5. Volunteer Driver Program

Council members discussed options available to the Town in an effort to expand transportation opportunities for seniors and residents with disabilities. By consensus the Council agreed to have staff explore the options and make a recommendation to the Council.

6. Establishment of Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center

Joined by Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren and Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Council members discussed the draft committee charge for the establishment of Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center. The ensuing discussion centered on the role of the Council as policy makers, the role of the Advisory Committee the role of professional staff and consultants, the ongoing negotiations and the composition of the membership of the Committee. The public will have an opportunity to approve any funding for the project. Mr. Hultgren suggested the focus of the Steering Committee be centered on the parking outside of the garage and commented that it is important that all the stakeholders be able to contribute.

Mr. Haddad moved, effective August 10, 2009, to approve the draft proposal in its entirety with changes. The amended resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AND ISSUE CHARGE TO A PARKING STEERING COMMITTEE FOR STORRS CENTER

WHEREAS, the Storrs Center downtown project incorporates a mix of uses including shops, restaurants, offices, housing, parks, and open space; and

WHEREAS, a variety of parking, including an intermodal facility, on-street and surface parking, is needed to accommodate the uses associated with Storrs Center; and

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WHEREAS, the Storrs Center Special Design District Master Parking Study was approved by the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission as part of the Storrs Center Special Design District on June 18, 2007, which requires that a specific number of parking spaces, by use, be included in the Storrs Center project; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that parking at Storrs Center be user-friendly, convenient, and affordable; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield will own the initial intermodal facility and the interior streets in Storrs Center; and

WHEREAS, the Storrs Center project received one of its last major approvals (a permit for improvements to Storrs Road) on June 16, 2009, and the project is continuing to progress toward construction, necessitating the need to move forward on a parking management plan; and

WHEREAS, there are several Town, University of Connecticut, and private surface parking lots immediately adjacent to the Storrs Center project area that will be affected by parking for Storrs Center; and

WHEREAS, the input of adjacent property owners, other interested parties and the Mansfield community is necessary for the development of a parking management plan that meets the goals of Storrs Center; and

WHEREAS, an advisory Steering Committee would assist the Town and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership in planning for parking in Storrs Center; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to establish a Steering Committee to assist in the coordination and planning for parking at Storrs Center:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

A Parking Steering Committee is established for the Storrs Center project and is authorized to perform the following charge:

- Oversee development of a parking management plan for Storrs Center (intermodal facility, surface parking, on-street parking, and adjacent parking areas) including but not limited to an evaluation of parking management strategies; parking operational systems; development of access control and enforcement strategies; evaluation of the cost of operational and

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enforcement systems; creation of regulatory and wayfinding parking signage; creation of a public communications strategy about parking options;

- Assist Town of Mansfield staff and the Town Transportation Advisory Committee with public transportation issues;
- Assist with information sharing and public input for the project amongst adjacent property owners, other interested parties and the Mansfield community;
- Present the management plan to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership's Board of Directors for its review and endorsement; and
- Present the management plan to the Town Council for its review and approval.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF PARKING STEERING COMMITTEE FOR STORRS CENTER

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to appoint a Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO:

Appoint a Storrs Center Parking Steering Committee with the following members:

1. Town Council, at least one member
2. One representative from Regional School District #19
3. One representative from the University of Connecticut
4. One representative from the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc.
5. Two Mansfield citizens including at least one adjacent private property owner and one who is interested in public transportation as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee
6. One representative from a local public transportation provider

Staff and Ex-officio members:

Town Manager
Town of Mansfield Public Works Director
Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. Executive Director
Town's Parking consultant

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One representative from Storrs Center master developer
LeylandAlliance

Seconded by Ms. Koehn the motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Mr. Nesbitt who voted nay.

The Town Manager will compile a slate of appointees for Council approval.

Mr. Nesbitt questioned the letter from DECD which stated that “design build” projects are not allowed and asked that an inquiry be sent to DECD requesting specific regulations which support this finding. He would like for the Town to have a direct dialogue with them prior to a final decision. The Town Manager agreed and reported that a “design build” project requires a short list of contractors and a fairly complete design plan. Mr. Hart said that staff would follow-up with the DECD on the possibility of allowing a “design build” project.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette reported on the meeting of the Finance Committee. As a result of the efforts of the Finance Department, the Town Manager and the Department Heads, preliminary figures for FY2008/09 show a modest increase of about \$11,000 in the fund balance. The Committee discussed the rescue-billing proposal and asked for additional information for the Council. Also discussed was the short period of time after the election of the Council to discuss the hiring of a Town Attorney. To assist in the effort the Finance Committee requested information on Town Attorney activity including the benefits of retaining an attorney or hiring on an hourly basis. Mr. Clouette announced that due to the September 3rd deadline for approval of referenda items for this year's November election, four bonding issues would be before the Council at the next meeting. These include the Hunting Lodge Road walkway, various bridge projects, the salt shed and reauthorization of open space funding.

Mr. Clouette moved the following nominations of the Committee on Committees:

Personnel Appeals Board – Donald Nolan

Mansfield Advocates for Children – James Greene

Motion to approve the recommendations passed unanimously.

Mr. Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, discussed and distributed a timeline for the Town Manager's annual review. (Timeline attached) For the next meeting, Mr. Haddad will prepare a motion reserving the right to change aspects of the Town Manager's contract.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

None

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. Connecticut Preservation News "A Tavern, A Bank, and A Dam" – July/August
8. UConn students living on-campus at Storrs, 1989-2009
9. Light the Night 2009
10. Chronicle "Mansfield Dem slate unveiled for election" – 07-27-09
11. Chronicle "Mansfield GOP confident in election slate" – 07-29-09
12. Chronicle "Mansfield looks ahead to 2020" – 08-01-09
13. Chronicle "Parents ticked at 'Toddler Time' demise" – 07-22-09
14. Chronicle "Revamped panel has spring fling oversight" – 08-01-09
15. Mansfield Today "Letter to the Editor" – 07-23-09
16. Mansfield Today "Town Committees name their candidates..." – 07-31-09

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Koehn requested a date for the Strategic Plan workshop and asked staff to address the questions posed by citizens during the public comment section of the meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

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Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor
Town Clerk

Mary Stanton,

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